

TOWN OF ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MUNICIPAL MONTHLY



Acton and Stow Fire Departments conducted a liveburn training exercise on Great Road. The owner of this residence intends to redevelop the property.

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TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

978-929-6600

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Friday: 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

TOWN HALL & HUMAN SERVICES HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Friday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Saturday - Sunday : Closed

Town Offices will be closed:
Monday, Sept. 6 (Labor Day)
Friday, Sept. 10 (Professional Development Day)

Friday, Sept. 10 (Professional Development Development

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Saturday: 10:30 AM-5:30 PM

Sunday: 2:00 - 5:00 PM

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

As summer comes to a close, many Acton families are preparing to return to school. This is an exciting time of the year for students, as they embark on the next steps of their academic experience. On behalf of Town staff, I would like to commend students, teachers, and families for their patience, dedication and hard work throughout the previous year, and wish them a healthy and successful next school year.

Town staff has initiated the development of the Fiscal Year 2023 Recommended Budget and Capital Plan. Over the next several months, the Town Manager's Office and Finance Department will work jointly with Town departments to develop departmental budget and capital requests. As we closely monitor public health trends, we are working on our recovery from the pandemic and focusing resources to deliver services and meet the needs established by the Select Board. This process will culminate in a proposed FY 2023-2032 Capital Improvement Plan to be presented to the Finance Committee in mid-November and a Recommended Budget and Capital Plan presented to the Select Board in early-December.

This month will mark the passage of two decades since the tragic day that changed our lives forever. On Saturday, September 11th at 10:00 AM at the Public Safety Facility, the Town of Acton will host a Remembrance Ceremony to commemorate the lives lost - including two Acton residents, Philip Rosenzweig and Madeline Amy Sweeney. A shuttle will be available starting at 8:30 AM to assist attendees with transport from the Town Hall to the ceremony.



From left, Town Manager John Mangiaratti, Deputy Police Chief Jim Cogan, Mason Sullivan, Officer Sullivan, brother A.J. Dellicicchi, sister Katie Rocklin, cousin Terri Boudreau, aunt Marybeth O'Leary and Uncle James O'Leary.

On August 10th, I was honored to present alongside Deputy Police Chief Cogan the 2021 Joseph A. Lalli Public Safety Employee of the Year Award to Officer Tricia Sullivan. Officer Sullivan has served on the department in various roles since 2002, including School Resource Officer, Elder Affairs Officer, member of the Domestic Violence Unit, and as a Sexual Assault Investigator. Officer Sullivan is honored for her care, compassion and dedication to all Acton residents, and is commended for her commitment to public service.

Sincerely, John S. Mangiaratti Town Manager

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Kyle Maldonado has accepted a full-time position with the Acton Fire Department. Kyle is currently enrolled in Paramedic training at Anna Maria College and will be eligible to take his certification exam in 2022. In addition, Kyle has 3 years of Call/per diem Firefighter/EMT experience with the Leicester Fire Department and has attended several Massachusetts Firefighting Academy courses.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Justin Mercurio has accepted a full-time position with the Acton Fire Department. Justin is a graduate of Anna Maria College with a Bachelor in Fire Science. He recently completed the Paramedic Program at Anna Maria and will be taking his Paramedic certification exams in the near future. Justin is also a graduate of the Massachusetts Fire Academy Call/Volunteer Program, attaining his Firefighter I/II certification in 2017.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ronald Hyatt has accepted a full-time position with the Acton Fire Department. Ron is a graduate of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management and is currently enrolled in Paramedic training at ProEMS Center for Medics. Ron will be eligible to take his certification exam in early 2022. In addition, Ron has 4 years of Call/Per diem Firefighter experience with Lunenburg and Boxborough Fire, 3 years of EMS experience and has attained his Firefighter I/II certification.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Robert Benting has accepted a full-time position with the Acton Fire Department. Robert received his Paramedic training at the Comprehensive Medical Teaching Institute and will be taking his Paramedic certification exams in the near future. Robert is a 3rd generation firefighter with 4 years of Call Firefighter experience with Pembroke Fire. He has 6 years of EMS experience and has attained his Firefighter I/II certification.



Kelly McCusker-Brown joins the department as a graduate from Fitchburg State University in 2020 with

POLICE DEPARTMENT

a degree in Criminal Justice and also completed the Police Academy at Fitchburg State University.



FOLICE DEPARTMENT Kyle Monahan joins the department as a graduate from Franklin Pierce University in 202 with a degree in Criminal Justice and recently completed the Randolph Police Academy.

NATURAL RESOURCES

ASSOCIATE LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER NEEDED FOR ACTON CANOE LAUNCH AND THE ASSABET RIVER BLUE AND GREEN TRAIL.

Duties are occasional summer mowing, periodic cutting of invasive knotweed, trimming overgrowth. Walking the trail, picking up litter. Average time required 1-2 hours per week year 'round.

ASSOCIATE LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER NEEDED FOR NASHOBA BROOK CONSERVATION LAND

Duties include pruning overgrowth, summer weed whacking around kiosk, regular walking and monitoring trails, reporting obstructions. Average time required 1-2 hours per week year 'round.

ASSOCIATE LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER TO ASSIST WITH SEASONAL MOWING AND WEED WHACKING OF VARIOUS CONSERVATION LANDS AND ACTON ARBORETUM TRAILS.

Average time commitment required is 2-3 hours per week, May-September. One hour per week walking the conservation land trails checking for issues.

For more information, please contact Natural Resources: NR@actonma.gov or call 978-929-6634.



Kiosk Area at Nashoba Brook Conservation Area



Boardwalk at Nashoba Brook Conservation Area

HEALTH DIVISION

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY Wednesday, September 22, 2021

from 4:00 - 6:30 PM

The Town of Acton holds a Hazardous Waste Day twice a year and offers residents a safe and legal way of disposing of hazardous materials. For more information on hazardous waste disposal or Hazardous Waste Day, please contact the Health Department at 978-929-6632 or click here.

Location: DPW Garage at 14 Forest Road

Note: These collection services are for Acton residents only and proof of residency will be required.

HEALTH DIVISION (CONTINUED)

Mindfulness Meditation Classes

with Erin LoPorto

Mondays at 10:00 AM

8 weeks beginning September 13, 2021

Cost: Free- Register with zoom link below

https://actonma.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0zBVz_bfSuCgZwOJ0_Ka3Q

Mindfulness/Meditation

If you're feeling extra anxiety or loneliness these days due to the pandemic, you're not alone. This time has us all facing more stress and uncertainty than usual. Meditation can be a pathway back to steadiness that is immeasurably helpful. Mindfulness meditation can reduce stress, relieve symptoms of anxiety and depression, and help you live a more present life.

Whether this is your first time meditating or you want to deepen your practice, join Erin LoPorto for this 8-week program.

Erin found her home in yoga and meditation when she was first introduced to the practices in 2001. She has experienced personal healing and transformation from the 8-limbed path and has been a full-time yoga teacher and yoga therapist since 2012. She is also a bodyworker, energy healer and life coach passionate about building and healing the mind-body connection. Erin brings a playful, intuitive and com-

Funding for CHNA 15 is provided from Lahey Hospital and Medical Center and Winchester Hospital through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Determination of Need (DoN) process. For more information, please email sball@actonma.gov or call 978-929-6453

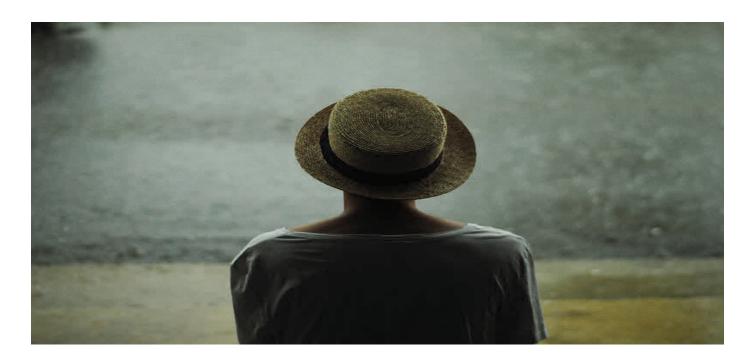
HEALTH DIVISION (CONTINUED)

Free Virtual Program on

Coping Strategies for Grief and Loss Thursday, September 23, 2021 10:00 AM

Pre-Registration Required Via Zoom

https://actonma.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eYkg7Tp3RHSXzyGZ5v68hw



Join the conversation about grief and loss especially since the COVID pandemic began. What feelings do we experience? How can we take (better) care of ourselves? What is our future and how do we connect to what uplifts up? Feel free to share your stories and questions if the mood strikes you.

Cynthia Simpson LICSW. Senior Citizen and therapist with experience in grief, trauma, and family matters. On staff part time at the Eliot Center in Concord.

For more information please contact Sheryl Ball at the Acton Health Division at sball@actonma.gov

Funding for CHNA15 is provided from Lahey Hospital and medical Center and Winchester Hospital through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Determination of Need (DON) process

COMMUNITY SERVICES

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ERAP)

Grant Amount: Monthly assistance can be up to the following amounts based on unit size:

- 1 Bedroom Unit \$500/month
- 2 Bedroom Unit \$750/month
- 3 Bedroom Unit \$1000/month
- 4 Bedroom Unit \$1250/month

Eligible applicants will receive **two months of assistance** and may also receive funds equal to an additional two months of assistance to assist with any currently owed back rent (rental arrears) if requested with proper documentation of arrears. **Applications will be accepted until October 15, 2021**.

Income Eligibility: Household* income must be below 80% Area Median Income (AMI) as published periodically by HUD. The program will follow Section 8 guidelines for determining annual income, income for all adult household members (over age 18) must be included. Current limits are as follows:

Effective: 4/1/2021	80% AMI Income Limits						
Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Income Limit	\$70,750	\$80,850	\$90,950	\$101,050	\$109,150	\$123,350	\$133,400

^{*} Household is defined as an individual or two or more persons who will live regularly in the unit as their principal residence and who are related by blood, marriage, law or who have otherwise evidenced a stable inter-dependent relationship.

For more information or to apply please contact:

Laura Ducharme, Community Services Coordinator at 978-929-6651 or lducharme@actonma.gov

CHILDCARE SUBSIDES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

The Towns of Acton, Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard and Westford have been awarded funds from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development and the Office of Business Development to provide regional COVID-specific relief to local communities.

Childcare Subsidies are available for income-eligible families in all five towns. Participating families will receive \$3,000 for children Kindergarten aged or younger and \$2,000 for children ages 6-13 towards their daycare, full-day Kindergarten or after school costs so that parents and quardians may work, go to school or seek employment through December 31, 2021.

Applications now being accepted on a first come first served basis Income. Eligibility Chart (80% of Area Median Income)

Household Size	Income Limit for Residents of Acton,	Income Limit for Residents of	
	Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard	<u>Westford</u>	
<u>2</u>	<u>\$80,850</u>	<u>\$63,950</u>	
<u>3</u>	<u>\$90,950</u>	<u>\$71,950</u>	
<u>4</u>	<u>\$101,050</u>	<u>\$79,900</u>	
<u>5</u>	<u>\$109,150</u>	<u>\$86,300</u>	
<u>6</u>	<u>\$117,250</u>	<u>\$92,700</u>	
<u>7</u>	<u>\$125,350</u>	<u>\$99,100</u>	
<u>8</u>	\$133,400	<u>\$105,500</u>	

For more information or to apply please contact:

Laura Ducharme, Community Services Coordinator at 978-929-6651 or lducharme@actonma.gov

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Acton Senior Center/Council on Aging is offering in-person and virtual events in September. There are exercise classes, lifelong learning opportunities, meals, and various groups. The Senior Center hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 AM to 5 PM, Tuesday 8 AM to 7:30 PM, and Friday 8 AM to 12 PM. Visit our website www.actoncoa.com for the latest information including our newsletter and enrollment for notifications. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook @actoncoa! The COA is following state and local COVID-19 guidelines concerning COVID-19 precautions.

Unfamiliar with the Senior Center? Don't miss our **Newcomers Evening on Tuesday, Sept. 28, from 4-7 PM.** You will be able to tour the building, meet staff, and learn more about the services we have to offer!

September program highlights, all drop-in unless otherwise stated:

- Thursday, Sept. 9 at 10 AM: Java with John
- Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 5 PM: Medical Use of Cannabis with Dr. Jordan Tishler.
- **Sunday, Sept. 19 at 12 PM:** Senior luncheon at the Boxborough Regency, hosted by the Rotary Club of Acton-Boxborough; sign up through the COA.
- Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 1 PM: Staff from the Massachusetts Office on Disability offers Emergency Preparedness Training.
- **Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 1 PM:** Acton resident John Anderson will talk about his book <u>Borne on the Wind</u> about his sea captain grandfather.
- Thursday, Sept. 23 at 12:30 PM: Sivan Etedgee returns for the first of a six-part series on Listening to Four Centuries of Music.
- Thursday, Sept. 23 at 11:30 AM: Staff from Northern Bank & Trust Company offer a first in a series on financial education with a talk on recognizing and reducing the risk of financial exploitation.
- Tuesday, September 28 at 1 PM: Multimedia presentation by John Clark on the Great Ladies of Song, part 2.
- Wednesday, September 29 at 1 PM: Cases of fraud have increased 500 percent during COVID! Learn about the latest scams with staff from the Office of Consumer Affairs and Better Business Bureau.



Acton Seniors enjoy a visit from an Ice Cream Truck



ABRHS student Naomi Yamaguchi performs a classical piano concert at the Senior Center

COUNCIL ON AGING (CONTINUED)

There are also 12 in-person fitness classes a week, a gym, a greeting card workshop, a new session of drawing classes, Ask the Lawyer appointments, Words Galore class, an opportunity to bake treats for Acton's first responders in honor of 9/11, viewing of Prison Dogs movie with APD service dog Zane in attendance, and a variety of groups.



This month, we have a "Remembrance Tree" displayed to acknowledge those we have lost during this challenging year and a half. Paper leaves will be available for you to post the name and, if you wish, photo of someone you have lost during this time.

The Minuteman Senior Service dining site offers in-person lunches Monday through Thursday at noon. Grab and Go lunches continue to be offered Monday through Friday. Sign-up at least 24 hours in advance with John in person or call (781) 221-7098. In addition on Tuesday, Sept. 21st Benchmark at Robbins Brook is providing a lunch to eat-in or take-out and there will be a dessert day featuring apple crisp.

For seniors and their family members seeking information on area social services, please contact COA Senior Services Coordinator Beverly Hutchings at (978) 929-6652. She provides information on home care agencies, elder day programs, housing options, food and fuel assistance, and a variety of other services. The COA also offers appointments with a SHINE counselor to discuss Medicare insurance options.

To be added or removed from the paper newsletter mailing list please contact us. You can reach the Council on Aging at (978) 929-6652 or e-mail <u>seniorcenter@actonma.gov</u>.

PUBLIC WORKS

MAILBOXES: We encourage all residents to inspect the condition of their mailboxes & posts and make necessary repairs or replacements prior to the snow season. Each mailbox installation should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow-clearing efforts by the Town. We do not recommend the use of plastic mailboxes as they become very brittle in cold weather. When installing a mailbox choose a suitable location. If you are unsure, check with the postal carrier.



FALL PAVING: Paving is scheduled to begin the end of September on the following roads:

- Brucewood Rd
- Driftwood Rd
- Fernwood Rd
- Nagog Hill Rd (house #226 to Town Line)
- Nagog Hill Rd (Main St to Greenwood Ln)
- Long Ridge Rd
- Maple St (Main St to house #21)

This process will involve grinding, adjusting drainage structures and putting down a final course of pavement. Please note, the duration and schedule can change depending on the weather or other conditions that may arise. While the crew is working there will be no on-street parking allowed within these areas. A police officer will be in the area to direct traffic and signs will be posted.



We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this time. If you have any questions, you may call the DPW/Highway Division during business hours (7 AM – 3:30 PM) at (978) 929-7740 or email highway@actonma.gov.

PUBLIC WORKS (CONTINUED)

PUT YOUR FOOD SCRAPS TO GOOD USE

Did you know that you can reduce the amount of trash you have to throw away, save money, and improve your local soil all by just starting your own compost pile? As an Acton resident you are eligible to participate in the At-Home Compost Bin Program! See your options below:



Earth Machine Compost Bin - \$25.00 (Holds 80 Gallons)



Kitchen Scrap Bucket - \$8.00 (Holds 2 Gallons)



Compostable Bags - \$4 per 25 bag roll (2.6 gallon bag size)

Stop by the Acton Department of Public Works at 14 Forest Road during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 7:30am-3:30pm) to purchase your compost bin or kitchen scrap bucket. If you have any questions, please call or email the DPW Office at (978)-929-7740 or highway@acton-ma.gov.

SPEAKING OF COMPOST!

The Transfer Station and Recycling Center offers a food waste diversion program for residents with valid access sticker. Think twice before you throw your food scraps into the garbage, with compost bins provided by Black Earth Compost it is easier than ever to participate. Give your food scraps a new purpose by helping to enrich the soil that grows our food and create a healthier food cycle. The Transfer Station is open Tuesday – Saturday from 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

ALLOWED

Meat, Bones, Dairy Products, Seafood, Fruit,
Vegetables, Shells, Coffee Grounds, Filters, Tea
Bags, Soiled Paper Napkins, Wet or Waxed
Cardboard, Floral Clippings and Approved
Compostable Products. For a list of approved
compostable products click here.

NOT ALLOWED

Plastic, Metal, Liquid, Styrofoam, Lids, Wrappers (candy, butter, etc.), Plastic Gloves, Plastic Coated Containers (frozen food boxes, cups, cartons), Plastic Straws, Plastic Strapping, Broken Plates, Branches





NEW FALL CLASSES NOW ONLINE!

VISIT ACTONREC.COM FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER:

Childrens: Super Soccer Stars, Amazing Athletes, Jr. Beginner Tennis, Field Day Fun, Floorball4All, Jump2BFit!, Crafty Kids, Earth, Space & Sea, Anatomy Academy, Code Wiz Coding Classes, Basketball, Flag Football, Vanta E-Sports, Think For Fun Programs, Fairytale/Disney Dance, Beg/Int. Ballet, Beg/Int. Hip Hop, Stage Music Studio Programs and more!!!

Tweens: Tennis, Floorball4All, Jump2BFit!, Code Wiz Coding Classes, Vanta E-Sports, Think For Fun Programs, Beg/Int. Lyrical Dance, Intermediate Jazz and more to come!

Adults: Tennis, Floorball4All!, Women's Pick-up Soccer, Barre Style-Stretch, Strength & Dance, Bellydancing, Hike and Hatha Yoga, Zumba, Red Cross CPR/AED and First Aid and more to come!!!

DO YOU GET OUR E-NEWSLETTER? STAY UP-TO-DATE ON THE LATEST...

The Recreation's Department e-newsletter is packed with all good things recreation! To be added to the distribution list, please send an email to recreation@actonma.gov.

Building a sense of community through quality recreation.

ACTONREC.COM

THIS MONTH IN SUSTAINABILITY

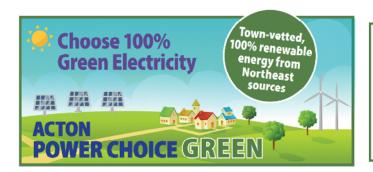
THE LATEST ON CLIMATE ACTION

The development of the Town of Acton Climate Action Plan (CAP) is in full swing. The final CAP will map the pathway and strategies to reduce Acton's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Mobility, Buildings & Energy, and through Nature-based solutions. If you did not get a chance to participate in the first round, there is still time! Join the upcoming thematic workshops happening September 13th -15th, 12:00-1:15PM. Details on signing up and other ways to participate can be found on the CAP blog here.

Have you filled out the community-wide survey? This is the last call to do so! Check out the survey here and please share with your neighbors. Please contact sustainability@actonma.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

ACTON POWER CHOICE GREEN

One of the easiest ways to reduce your carbon footprint is by opting up to APC GREEN, the 100% clean energy option. By opting up to APC GREEN, residents and businesses can choose to support significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions, the creation of regional clean energy jobs, and growing the Northeast renewable energy sector. Learn more at ActonPowerChoice.com.



Enrollment / Questions 1.844.379.9933

service@ActonPowerChoice.com

If opting up or enrolling in APC, have your Eversource account # handy.

Learn more: ActonPowerChoice.com

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS SPOTLIGHT: CONGREGATION BETH ELOHIM

Placing solar panels on the roof of the Congregation Beth Elohim's (CBE) Synagogue wasn't an option due to the building's unique design, but that didn't stop them from getting creative. An idea that started out as a single solar canopy turned into one of the largest solar installations by a faith-based organization in the state of Massachusetts. A partnership between CBE, 621 Energy, and Sunwealth allowed for the creation of this project through a solar



Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). The 4 solar canopies located in the parking lot of the CBE have been in operation for almost one year and have Above: Havdalah celebration beneath the solar canopy. generated over 273 MW of electricity



Left: Aerial photo of the completed solar canopy.

and reduced 147 tons of carbon dioxide emissions. The CBE's solar canopy project supports two fundamental CBE values: Tikkun Olam (rebuilding the world) and Sh'mirat Adamah (protecting the earth). The electricity generated by these panels supports not only the synagogue but also 15 low income families in Massachusetts. CBE's green team members Barry Nyer, Matt Liebman, Matt Kontoff, and Bob Becker led this project, taking the idea from paper to reality in five years.

DIRECTORY OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE - (978) 929-6600

<u>Department</u>	Phone Number	<u>E-Mail</u>
Acton Nursing Services	978-929-6650	nursing@actonma.gov
Assessors Division	978-929-6621	assessor@actonma.gov
Building Division	978-929-6633	building@actonma.gov
Cemetery Division	978-929-6642	cemetery@actonma.gov
West Acton Citizens' Library	978-929-6654	wacl@actonma.gov
Collector/Treasurer Division	978-929-6622	collector@actonma.gov
Community Resources	978-929-6651	lducharme@actonma.gov
Council on Aging	978-929-6652	seniorcenter@actonma.gov
Engineering Division	978-929-6630	engineering@actonma.gov
Fire Department	978-929-7722	fire@actonma.gov
Health Division	978-929-6632	health@actonma.gov
Highway Division & Transfer Station	978-929-7740 978-929-7742	highway@actonma.gov
Human Resources Department	978-929-6613	hr@actonma.gov
Information Technology Department	978-929-6612	it@actonma.gov
Acton Memorial Library	978-929-6655	actonmemoriallibrary.org
Municipal Properties Division	978-929-7744	mpo@actonma.gov
Natural Resources Division	978-929-6634	NR@actonma.gov
Planning Division	978-929-6631	planning@actonma.gov
Police Department	978-929-7711	police@actonma.gov
Public Facilities Division	978-929-7744	mpo@actonma.gov
Public Works Department	978-929-7740	highway@actonma.gov
Recreation Divisiion	978-929-6640	recreation@actonma.gov
Town Clerk Division	978-929-6620	clerk@actonma.gov
Town Manager's Office	978-929-6611	manager@actonma.gov
Veterans' Services	978-929-6614	vso@actonma.gov
Acton Water District	978-263-9107	www.actonwater.com